New York –
46 W. 17th St.
Saturday Nov 22 1862

My dear Annie,

I was pleased to get your letter, for I had begun to think you might have been waiting to get better before you wrote. I rejoice with you over all the glad tidings, & rejoice that you are spared all the little inevitable attendant griefs. I am always deeply interested to hear every the smallest particular of your getting on, & whatever you see & do & experience; & thankful to hear that the Orleans family are such pleasant people.

Bursley dined & passed the night – in fact, put up here, yesterday. He is just from England where he has been doing well in a business sense. He brought Elinor a lovely, fine Guipure (white) parasol cover. Of all people in the world Mrs Rebecca Lee came back with him to Boston

yet, they were otherwise than well there. I should doubtless hear of it. My new black Moiré, as I call it, comes out well. And my Bonnet makes over, & is a new one. I must close – your affectionate Mother M. W. Chapman

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Honey diavoled with them once in a time.

Boston, with her niece, Jane Tuckerman, John King's quondam. She told him she knew Miss Chapman of Chauncey Place intimately — which was true: — though your father's dislike of the fat *ordinary* Englishwomen that they then were, she & her sister Sarah, precluded *my* ever knowing them intimately; & their frightful religious or irreligious bigotry made the distance still wider. They told Knott, the English shoe-maker, — an adventurer like themselves upon the plenty of the country, that they should use all their influence to prevent his getting custom, for he was an *infidel* & helped to sustain Abner Kneeland. (Which was true, but says Knott, who told me of it himself, "— I submit to you whether it is not an extra-judicial punishment to *starve* me to death!") This is all Greek & very ancient Greek to you, doubtless. But I was obliged to introduce Mrs. Rebecca, in order to set her a-talking. "Do you know Miss Chapman— "Nephew! Henry Chapman," says she to Binkley. He acknowledged the acquaintance. "Well: he has gone to England to live with all his family. He has accepted the situation of Secretary to the Duke of Aumale." — We all roared at this & nothing more was said: but it illustrates the difficulty of getting at facts, in the world of tattle. I don't recollect any news to tell you — unless I should say that we have a new dining room carpet — (cost $180, carpets is riz so, &c &c —) & a very pretty Brussels carpet — room 16 by 20, or so. The old one is put down in my room & a very fine bird I am, with my window & bed-curtains & rideaux de vitrage & coal-boxes in the guise of window-seats, & shining tea-kettle

upon the hearth. We canno
get the "Trognon" article in the
Revue des deux Mondes yet. Nobod
had it but the Herald, who it is
supposed, misrepresented it. But all
accounts agree that it is excessively
discouraging for the U.S. as regards
the final suppression of the Rebellion
But you must not count it to
them as unrighteousness, as they
(the Princes I mean) are not Amer
cans, & owe no allegiance; and are
in no way implicated that can make
it wrong for them to say what
they think of the final issue of the
War. I should be sorry indeed, if it prov
true that they condemn the Emancipa
tion policy. But I believe it to be one
of Bennett's lies. Henry is well but
worked very hard. He is exactly like a
horse after a hot quick drive when
night comes, & rolls, - the same, i
his shirt-sleeves, with a cigar in hi

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mount. Says he shall make his living & Lay up a little something this year, if the Bottom does not drop out. But I tell him it cant drop out till the end of next year if at all. These last Elections in N.Y. resulting in the success of the Pro-Slavery democracy, look badly for us, but they are not so bad as they look. They have only 10.000 majority, & the Army opinion, shown by the easy relinquishment of McClellan to be Republican, more than overbalances that. the administration has a whole year to operate in: enough time to conquer in, if victory be practicable in these circumstances — the most unfortunate of which is, that we one half the country, are is held back from Victory by the mistaken political policy cherished by the other half. Some of the fairest fighters — both Dems & Reps (alas the word supports the character of

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too many of our leading men — (Political Demi-Reps —) say, the Democracy, once in the ascendancy next year, will make propositions of peace upon the basis of the *status quo*, which the Rebels will *reject*. & *then* we shall *fight*. Dems & Reps as one: for *then* the Dems. last hope is gone. & so on & so on. One gets tired of their predictions & reckonings & re-reckonings. I am not, in my own secret heart, proud of my country while its salvation depends upon the resolution of its enemies: — but I am thankful that it could be *kicked* into line with free nations, in season to prevent its becoming a common nuisance. I am one in heart with the blind masses of our people, who give themselves so devotedly for the Unity

+ but I am glad you are home

of the country, & I would do any thing that was not wrong, to enlighten them so that they could not be made the tools of selfish demagogues at every Election. Jay says that if we cannot conquer the rebels, we must inevitably crumble into a dozen pieces! — as many provinces as States. — like central Europe; but he entertains no doubt of success, although he foresees sad hours, & is perpetually shoving up the Government to precautions against the seizure of the Atlantic cities by the Democratic party in coup d'etat assembled. But I tell him this is less likely than that feeble, retrograde republicanism should so far reinforce them, as that they may be able to carry on their tyranny, as heretofore, through Constitutional forms.

My opinion is that the majority of men's hearts misgive them about the final issue; but they dare not say so, for it would be treason in a sort, for it would tend to prevent the object in view. I mean the majority of thinking men. But I have never heard one single person express the slightest doubt of success, — & Henry has only heard one man. (Foreigners excepted who all agree in thinking, — however devoted to the North, like Col de Fezensac for example, — that division is an accomplished fact, & the suppression of the rebellion an impossibility.) I have my own earnest wishes, — that America might be one from the Northern to the Southern Arctic by means of freedom: & that Europe might be so magnetically drawn to the happiness & goodness of a hemisphere so free that the civilized world might be:

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virtually one. So I began life, — with a propaganda in favour of Unity & against all that is selfish in Nationality, as knowing that to hate & hurt neighbours is to hate & hurt one'self, — and so I hope to end it, after this immediate pressure of war-necessity is over. Ultimately, I am sure of Union by Freedom: How & When, I cannot see. But "Forgetting the things that are behind & pressing forward to the things that are before" seems to me the best method — & "not as though we had already attained" — while any thing remains to do. The negroes are free: — virtually so, as I trust. & we are more free than I ever before remember. Still, I think a great sentimental work remains to be done, to bring the political intelligence of the people, to bring

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deadened by allegiance to the South, up to the level where republican institutions can work. You see we as a people are working now, by a power above, & outside of them! — They were inadequate to the work in hand. We tried them at, early in life. They always broke down.+ They did not protect us in the use of speech, press, postage, or association. If they had, war would have been unnecessary. But when the North permitted the South in 1837 to rifle her mail-bags, she ensured the reign of force for a season by that relinquishment of civil rights.

This great educational work of which I spoke above, the war is doing, — the times are doing; and I doubt not that, ultimately we shall come out like a new

+ not from any abstract deficiency in them, but thro' the slowness of the people to discover their own Constitution.

brown pipe). I am afraid a simile, for something that happened yesterday. Henry's Meerschm pipe is well built, - brown with the white bowl, - a real Meerschaum worth years & years of puffing & blowing, fell into the hands of little Henry. Little Henry ran with it in his hands, & his mother after him in error. She caught him by the left arm, but he brandished the pipe in his right, & sent across the room like lightning. Consequence was, the amber mouth piece is broken & though the pipe-part is safe, it can't be used like this, mouth-piece is fitted on again. So may it be with the U.S. The mouth piece is in abeyance, but I see no reason why it should not be fitted on again, when we get pos-

[illegible] — [illegible] — that Calumet of Peace which [illegible] are engaged in Conquering.

[illegible] 23.

[illegible] a Natural Canoe [illegible] then called [illegible] Mile 2. North 10. [illegible] not much [illegible] 7th [illegible] This [illegible] Tea at 6 [illegible] x Nov. 22. 62

Mr Jay came for me to go to tea there as Eleanor & Henry had refused till later, desiring to have an hour of domestic felicity. Seeing he was in haste, I bade him make my excuses to Mrs Jay, for I would not keep him waiting till I had made my toilette. So he ran home to receive, & we followed after tea. We were first on the ground after all, except Roberton. Soon, followed Mr. & Mrs. Roscoe Conklin – (the sister of Seymour, present – Gov. of N.Y. Dem. pro-slavery, but Rep. Abolitionist, like her husband, who has just lost his election to the U.S. Senate. Then came Mr. Barney, (Collector Custom house) then Old. Bancroft, noisy because he is deaf – the same affected sycophant he used to be, but now an Abolitionist & all his conversation

of Nothing but Freedom & the
Means of obtaining & Securing
it. He grovelled before the Gay children
who scoff at him while they like to
drag him about like a Monkey
in a chain. Augusta *won't* let
him ride with her, & Mary *will*
make him ride with *her*. Mrs
Gay, & indeed, John too, & all the
family, proclaim a horror of Univer-
sal Suffrage as the root of all evil.
To this Hiram Barney said "I like
Universal Suffrage, because it necessitates
Universal Education." I presented him
with one of my best looks of approv-
ing condescension. But the Gays have
their own private opinion that Univer-
sal *Education* is not Universal
Salvation. Henry worried to get
home early: so after the rest of

the company had gone, (much
talk on Spiritualism — Conklin & wife
having seen a good piano rise
in the air, while she was playing
on it!) & after the children had
all said their hymns, (the
customary Sunday-night ex-
ercise,) we trotted home. Augusta
having seen the Cumberland & Merrimac
fight, was moved to recite Longfellow's
last: which expresses good sentiments
but in which he has spoiled a hymn,
by choosing a foolish measure.
Meyerbeer's Opera of Ploermel is
produced here. When the manage-
ment advertised for a goat, which is
a principal character, the street was
as full of those animals as Sam-
bardella's Liverpool or London street was, a
long time ago, with prostitutes, when he

advertised for a model with a fine beard & jesses — (or as good as.) & when the Management made choice of a black-&-white-faced one, the Operatic public declared it was a propitiation to the political public sentiment which was neither black nor white wholly.

I note your view of duty in the matter of photographic Cartes de visite, & repeated the message to Elinor who has of her own accord been indefatigable in urging the same view, heretofore. But I do not think old women of any sort fit subjects, — least of all myself! So with many thanks for the kind thought, I will save you all the unnecessary shock of so aged a face, which you might otherwise remember younger, & in all probability may never see again in the flesh.

Give my love to Lizzy & Laugel & the babies. — if Léonce may be so called. I do not hear but that all are well at Weymouth. Staten Island is practically as far from hence as Weymouth, — yet

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